



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown District

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Holiday Safety Tips

It's that time of year again when holiday spirit is all around us. We see it in the form of decorative lights and brightly wrapped gifts. We see beautifully dressed Christmas trees glittering through living room windows. We see shoppers carrying bags of freshly purchased treasures. We see families commuting to and from various celebrations as well as people ringing bells and collecting change. We enjoy these holiday visions and have come to expect them from year to year.

Unfortunately, we are not the only ones keeping a keen eye on all this holiday cheer. Criminals enjoy the holiday season, too. This is their time to plan their crimes while the rest of us hurry from place to place. Please be cautious during this holiday season. Take the extra steps necessary to remove potential opportunities for a criminal to commit a crime. Reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim by remaining alert and aware of what is going on around you.

Holiday Shopping:



Consider shopping during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, park your vehicle in a well lit area and one that is near people – not parked so far away that you would be alone if approached by a criminal.

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From The Desk Of Commander Johnny Cervantes

Happy Holidays!

On December 16th, we will be holding a Community Event to include document shredding and prescription/over the counter drug collection for disposal, at the unoccupied car dealership on the corner of Pima and McDowell.

As the shredding of personal documents has become more popular you probably know that criminals are looking for documents that have your personal information so they can commit fraud. Were you aware however that 1 in 5 teens are abusing prescription drugs? The most common source of the "Opioids" that are being abused is the medicine cabinet of parents and grandparents.

The most dangerous part of this growing epidemic is that drugs such as OxyContin, affect the Central Nervous System. An overdose can lead to respiratory failure and abusers often times die in their sleep. These drugs are extremely addictive and very difficult to get off of without professional help.

The important thing to take away from this is to know what prescription drugs are in your home and what quantities they are in. They should be secured at all times. If they are no longer needed or expired please take advantage of the service we will be providing on the 16th. Proper disposal is beneficial to the environment, but more importantly keeps these drugs out of the wrong hands.

Commander Johnny Cervantes
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Don't weigh yourself down with packages and make sure you have your keys ready when you return to your car. If you must return to the store after delivering packages to your car, make sure the packages are out of view from anyone walking by your car. Keep in mind that criminals may be lurking in parking lots, watching, and waiting for an opportunity.

Remember, a vehicle can be broken into within seconds. It is recommended that valuables are not left in a vehicle, but if this cannot be avoided, keep them out of view – preferably in the trunk.



Holiday Home Safety:

Our homes are where we relax. Relaxing is good, but we can never relax our security efforts. By staying diligent we can take opportunities away from criminals and help keep our homes and neighborhoods safe.

Lock, Lock, Lock...your doors and windows. Last year the majority of burglaries were accomplished without force. What this means is that the burglars simply walked into residences and took what they wanted, due to the fact that the doors or windows were not secured. It makes sense that criminals prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows, so why make it easy for them? Locking a door may be what prevents your home from being broken into as an easier target is more attractive

Be cautious when stringing those holiday lights. Breaches in security occur when exterior holiday light extension cords are run through a window to reach an outlet. If there are no exterior outlets available, forego the decorations until outlets can be properly installed.

Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window making them visible from the street. Take away the temptation for a potential criminal to smash the window and grab the wrapped packages. Be aware that criminals sometimes knock on doors, posing as service providers to gain information for a future burglary. Don't answer the door for anyone you don't know.

Don't advertise ...Burglars pay attention to cues to help determine if you are home or away. Put lights on timers and be sure a trusted neighbor or family member is watching your home if you go away. Have the newspaper and mail stopped or picked up daily. Be sure flyers are removed that may have been left on your door and request that they put out and retrieve the trash/recycle containers.

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Although it may sound elementary, don't leave descriptive telephone voice mail messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's...we're away skiing for the holidays...please leave a message." This gives criminals the information they need to know that they have plenty of time to commit a burglary without an interruption from a homeowner.

After the holidays, don't pile up empty boxes from your new computer, DVD player, or television on the street for garbage/recycle pick up. This again provides information that you have expensive items in your home. Break the boxes down or cut them up to conceal the original contents.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, email cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 1 Police Aide Randee Short at 480-312-2074, email: rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Upcoming Events

Shredding Event – December 16th 7:30 – 10:30

The unoccupied Auto Dealership on the Southeast Corner of Pima and McDowell

Take advantage of on-site document shredding and prescription/over the counter drug collection for destruction. Please bring a donation of CASH, non-perishable food, or clothing to benefit Vista Del Camino. *Shredding material accepted until truck is full.*

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Jen Wattier at 480-312-0275 or Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817